



Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



Connor Downs
Academy

Year 4

Spring Term 2022

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Connor Downs Academy, Mutton Hill, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5DH

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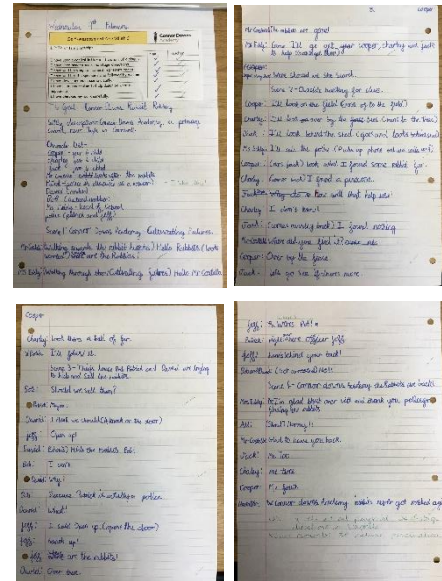


English

We started our term with a new topic called 'Dragons: fact or fiction?' As part of this topic, we read about different types of dragons and the myths written about them. The children drew their own dragons followed by planning and writing their own dragon myths about finding a dragon egg on Carn Brea and taking it home with them. Some of the dragons were found a happy home with a local farmer and others were sold or kept as a family pet! The class really enjoyed our second topic of the term: 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly'. This focused on crime and punishments from Anglo-Saxon times up until the modern day. The children all planned and wrote their own playscript called 'The Great Connor Downs Rabbit Robbery'.

After learning about real-life criminals from the Bodmin gaol registers at Kresen Kernow, the class character descriptions and designed their own wanted posters based on these criminals.

Our final topic of the term was 'Sounding Off'. We started this topic looking at a poem by Roger McGough called 'The Sound Collector'. The children all worked in groups to perform this poem and then wrote their own version of it using the sounds they hear around school. We finished the topic by writing a formal letter of complaint about the amount of noise that Year 4 have been making during their science lessons about sound!



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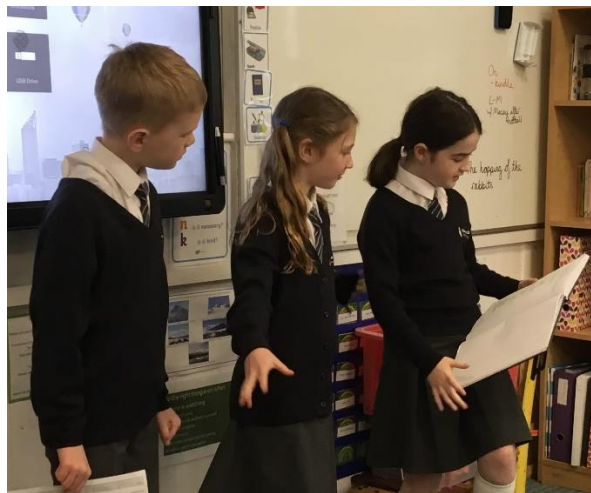
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Minack Theatre

As part of their 90th birthday celebrations, we were invited to learn an act of 'The Tempest' (the first play put on at The Minack Theatre) and go to act out our part and watch other schools perform their acts. The children did an amazing job of learning their parts and performing without a rehearsal on the stage. It really helped them to understand how much thought goes into writing a playscript.

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Maths

Our main focus in Maths this term, has been to develop the children's ability to learn and recall their times tables knowledge at speed. Knowing this enables the children to focus their attention on working out what word problems are asking them to do instead of the mechanics of calculating the division or multiplication. We test our knowledge on the same times table every day and chant the answers together. On Thursdays, the children are tested on the times table that is their personal focus. Four days a week, the children keep their arithmetic skills sharp through spiral review tasks and tables practice. At Connor Downs, the children tackle fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving tasks throughout each of their maths topics to "master" each skill before being ready to progress to the next unit of work. Each unit started with a baseline assessment to ensure that coverage is tailored to fill any gaps that have arisen due to the disruptions cause by Covid-19.

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Our first topic this term, saw us continuing the multiplication and division topic we started at the end of the Autumn Term. We then moved on to learning about area and understanding how it is different to perimeter. We then spent four weeks learning about fractions. The children learnt about unit and non-unit fractions, equivalent fractions, improper fractions, and mixed numbers and practised adding and subtracting fractions. Our last topic of the term was decimals. Because this was a new concept for the class, we focused on learning about tenths and hundredths. The children found it useful to be able to relate decimals to fractions from our previous topic.

Science

During our topic 'Sounding Off', we focused on learning about sound. We learnt how sound is produced through vibrations, how to make sounds louder, quieter, higher and lower. The children used musical instruments to investigate sound and made their own instruments to produce higher and lower, louder and quieter sounds. We discussed the possible dangers of listening to sounds that are too loud and made our own ear protectors. To do this, we needed to investigate which materials would help to make sounds fainter.



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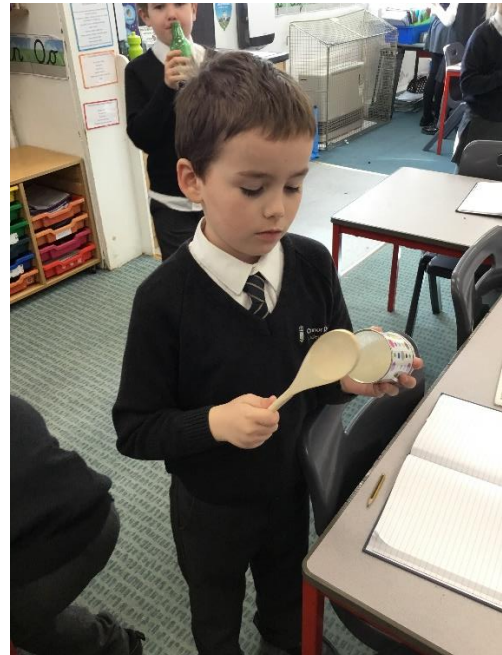
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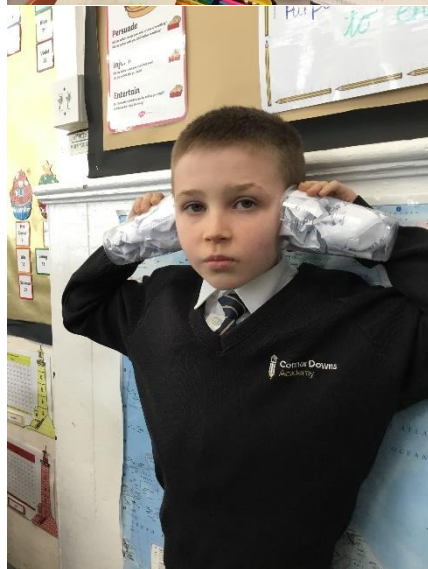
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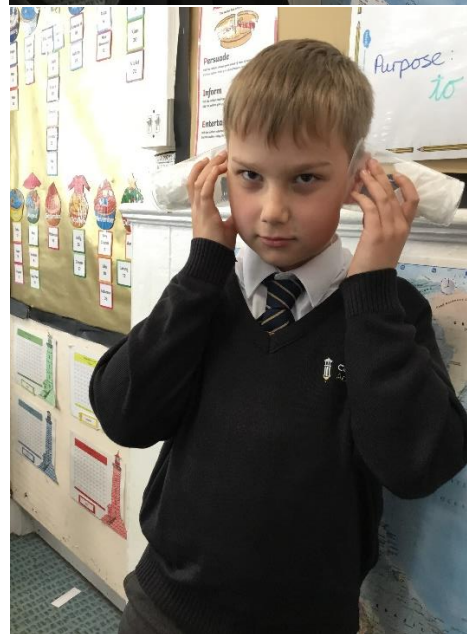
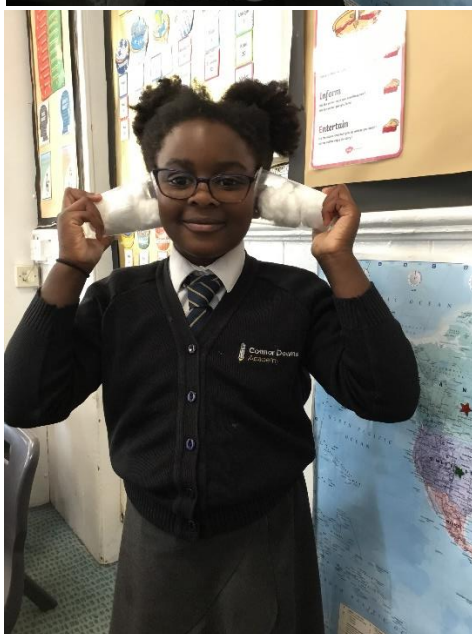




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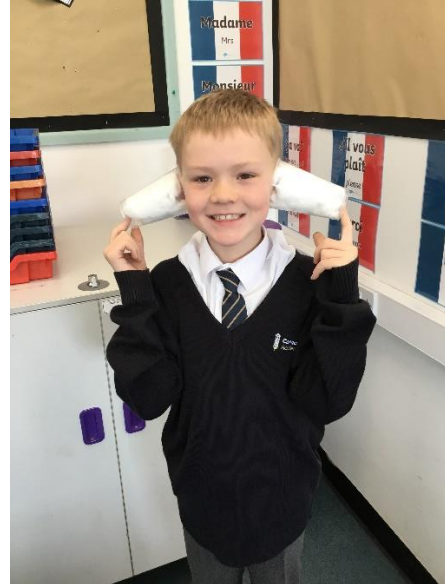
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PE

In PE this term, we began by focusing on dance. The children thought about moving like a machine and put together dance routines that used push and pull movements, mirroring each other and canons. We enjoyed practising canons for our class routine and the challenge of one person beginning the move and waiting for the person in front of you to move before you repeated the movement.

The class have all enjoyed wearing the school Moki watches this term. They all tried hard to clock up as many steps as they could. The children all worked hard during our tennis trial session after a special tennis assembly.



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During the second half of the term, the children began tag rugby lessons. We focused on learning how to attack, defend, pass backwards and score a try. The children were fantastic at not losing possession and getting tagged as a way to pass the ball backwards to their team members.



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History

During our 'Dragons: fact or fiction' topic we began by learning about different types of dragons and designed our own. We learned about different patron saints with a focus on saint George. At the end of the topic, we sorted fact from fiction to help us to decide whether dragons are real.

Our second history topic for the term was 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly'. During this topic, we learned all about crime and punishments from Anglo-Saxon times to modern times. We also learned about when the Metropolitan Police was formed and the attempts at forming a police force beforehand.

Kresen Kernow visit

As part of our crime and punishment topic, we visited Kresen Kernow in Redruth – the home for Cornish archives. We learned about the history of the site (it used to be a brewery), had a tour of the archives and took part in a mock trial. Some children took on the roles of judge and criminals while the rest of the class were the jury and got to decide the fate of the criminals. The children had the chance to research two criminals from 1840, who had been part of our mock trial, and looked at a range of evidence to find out about them. We then used this research back at school to write character descriptions and design wanted posters.

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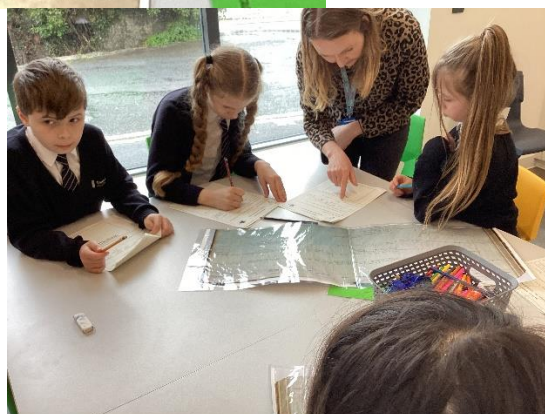
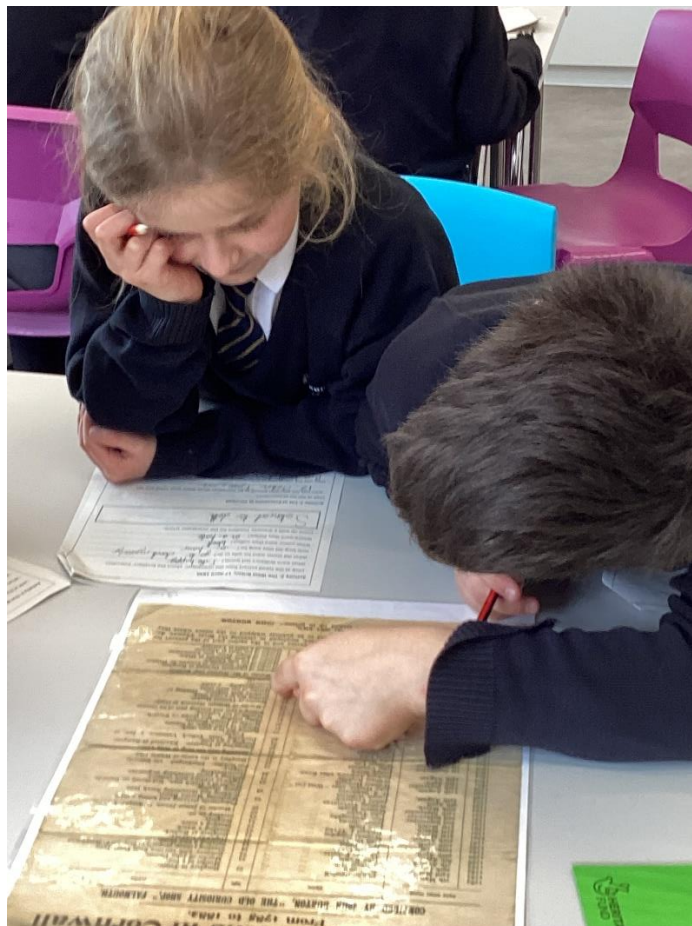
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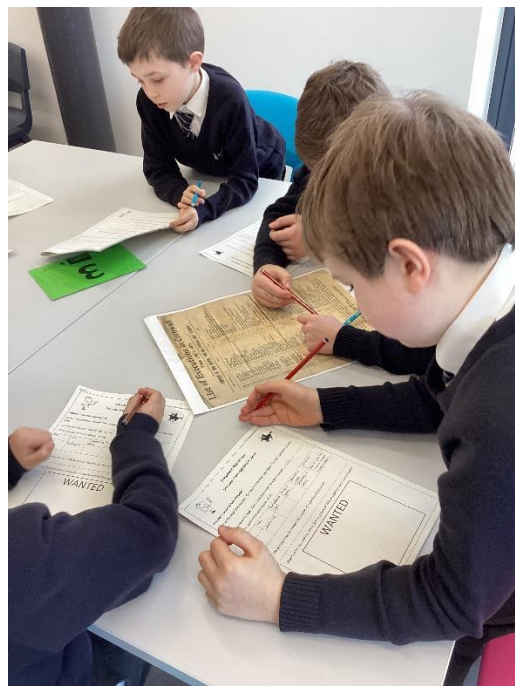
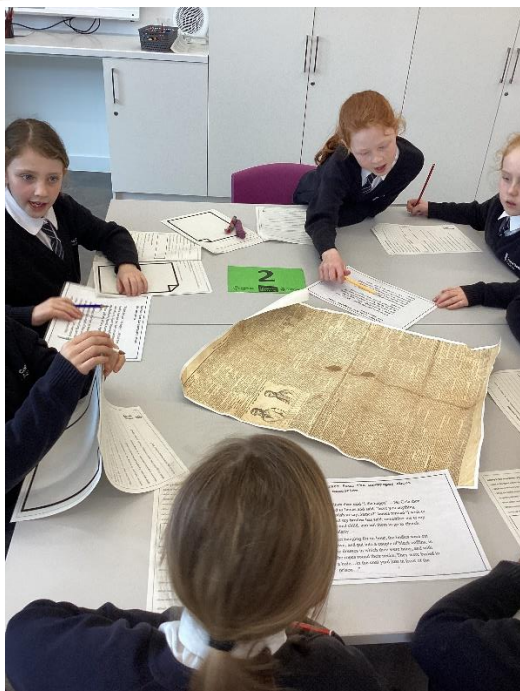




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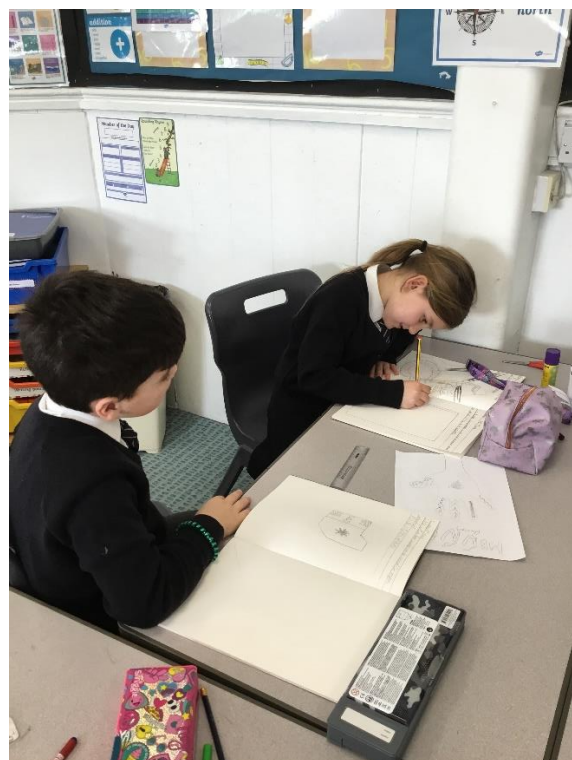
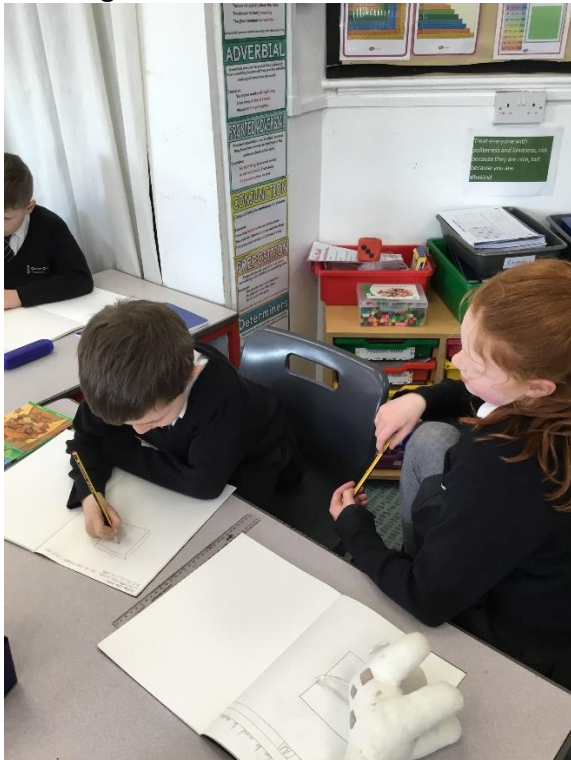
Geography

As part of our 'Dragons: fact or fiction?' topic, we learned about the counties and cities of the United Kingdom that dragon myths originated from. We looked at the physical and human features of each of the places we read dragon myths about. We located the places in the United Kingdom on a map and planned routes for how to get there from Connor Downs Academy.

Art

At the beginning of the term the children all designed their own dragon – choosing the features of different types of dragons to inspire them. They built on these by designing a dragon egg and then creating a final design of their dragon in a silver frame.

During our 'Sounding Off' topic the children started by listening to instructions to draw an item in the classroom. They then followed this by creating paintings inspired by sounds. They painted while listening to exciting music first of all and then while listening to calm music.



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Computing

Every day in Year Four, the children access our iPads and Chromebooks. The children quiz regularly after they have completed their reading books and they regularly use Sumdog and TTRockstars to enhance learning their times tables. In our Computing lessons, the children have been continuing to use Scratch to animate letters using different effects and costumes. During our 'Dragons: fact or fiction?' topic the children used Google Earth and maps to locate places and to help them to plan their routes.

As part of our 'Sounding Off' topic, the children learned how dataloggers can use sensors to measure temperature, decibels (sound) and lux (light). They used the different sensors to investigate which rooms in the school were the warmest/coldest, loudest/quietest, and darkest/lightest.

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MFL - French

This term, the children have revised their French vocabulary using the exciting and engaging *Rigolo* French program. With a focus on knowing key phrases, the children have developed their conversational skills and are beginning to record their conversations in writing. They have learned about colours, classroom items, how to say their age, classroom instructions and revised previous learning.

RE

During the first half of the term, the children continued to learn about Hinduism by finding out how Hindus show their faith. They learned about puja (worship), blessing food, arti (ceremony of lights), singing hymns, reading holy texts and visiting the temple. They learned about 'Sanatan Dharma' which describes how Hindus believe in a way of life rather than a set of beliefs.

During the second half of the term, we continued to learn about Christianity by looking at why Christians think of Good Friday as 'good'? The children learned about the events of Holy Week and that Christians believe it was a good thing that Jesus died to save them.

PSHE

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) is delivered through our weekly SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) program, but is present in all that we do in school.

This term, the focus has been on keeping myself safe by managing risk, decision-making, drugs and their risks and staying safe online. During the second half of the term, we learned about rights and responsibilities. The children found out how they could make a difference, they learned about their rights and how to make decisions about spending money.

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Music

During our music lessons this term, we have followed the Charanga Musical School original curriculum. Our first topic this term was 'Stop Bullying'. We learned a song called 'Stop' and composed our own verse.

Chorus:

Stop Bullying x4

Stop! It's no good to be a bully!

Stop! I hope you understand fully!

Stop! So let's be friends,

Friends until the end.

Stop! It's no good to be a bully!

Stop! I hope you understand fully!

First verse:

Doesn't matter if you're tall or small

Being a bully ain't cool

You don't need a cop to make it stop

It makes my mind pop!

Let's be friends every day and night

We don't need to fight or bite

Doesn't matter if you're slow or fast

Let's put bullies in the past.



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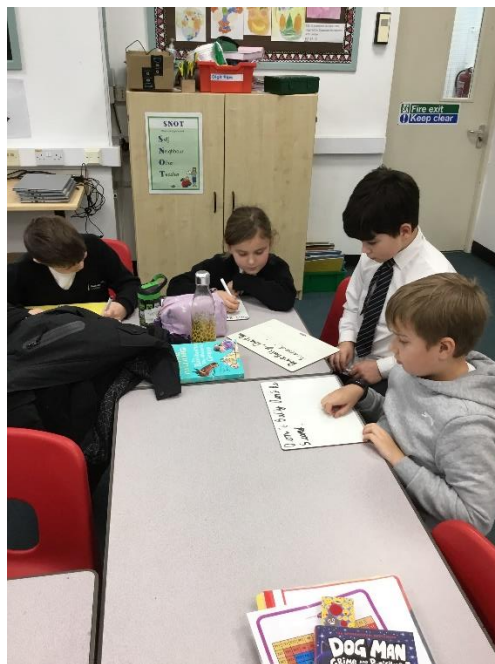
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During the second half of term, we learned the song 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers. We began every lesson by listening to and appraising a range of songs. Some of the songs we listened to were: Radetzky March by Johann Strauss, Can't stop the feeling by Justin Timberlake, Praise you by Mary Mary and Amazing Grace by Elvis Presley. After listening to each song, the children were asked to decide whether they liked each of them and a reason why. We also learned to sing 'Lean on Me'.



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Farm and Country Day

On Thursday 24th March, Year 3 and Year 4 visited the Farm and Country Day at the Royal Cornwall Showground in Wadebridge. The children learned where our food comes from through a range of activities such as: milking a cow, learning about contractors, seeing cows, sheep, piglets, lambs and goats, tasting a range of food, planting broccoli, making cheese and pasties, learning about potatoes and understanding about waste and pollution.



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